

## **Understanding the ebXML strategy for Frame Electronic Catalogues**

### **A. the strategy**

In July 2009, ISO TC172/SC7/WG8 has decided to adopt ebXML, ISO 15000, as the foundation of the Frame Electronic Catalogue standard ISO 10 685. ebXML standards are developed by the CEFAC (xxx) a United Nations organisation since 2001. This organisation relies on 25+ years experience in the development of electronic trade standards and has authored the UN/EDIFACT well known standard.

ebXML messages rely on a regularly updated Core Component Library which contains many components used across all industries. A message like a catalogue is the result of the assembly of those components following a well details methodology. However, two different groups using the methodology may end-up with very different results even if all compliant with the standard.

Developing the message assembly for the Frame Electronic Catalogue, we have decided to rely on the existing message assembly of the Cross Industry (CI) Catalogue and to minimize changes to this message assembly. Multiple factors played in favour of this approach:

1. the CI catalogue is the result of many years of effort from the UN/CEFACT TBG1 group with the contribution of majors industries such as the retail industry, the telecommunication industry and the oil and gas industry. GS1 is managing the project and has remarkable know-how in the development of catalogue. Getting benefits of this effort is considered as a major plus in favour of the CI catalogue.
2. the CI catalogue has been developed a product independent message assembly. It is believed that it would be beneficial to the ophthalmic optics industry to be able to use a shared XML catalogue schema across frames, sunglasses, lenses, contact lenses and ophthalmic lenses. Relying on a product independent message assembly is then in favour of the CI catalogue.
3. Maintaining catalogue message assembly in conformity with best practices, regulations and rules and international trade is a very demanding task. We believe that this shall be the result of the joint effort of multiple industries. The CI catalogue is the only ebXML initiative for catalogues that is a shared effort between multiple industries.
4. The CI catalogue relies on Classification of product and properties that are not defined as part of the message assemble. This results in the ability of including additional product families and product properties within affecting the message assembly. This is considered as the most efficient manner to support product innovation which is crucial for the ophthalmic optics industry.

This strategy results in a rock solid and future proof message assembly that will handle future development of the optical industry with minor maintenance. It will simplify the deployment across the entire industry. However, it is known that the generic product approach results into more complex message assembly from a technical perspective. That is considered as a minor issue to the adoption of the CI catalogue message assembly as the unanimously adopted approach to exchange catalogue in the ophthalmic optics industry.

### **B. Integrating specific requirements of the ophthalmic optics industry into the CI Catalogue**

In order to make sure that specific requirements from the ophthalmic optics industry are integrated into the CI catalogue, EDI-Optique has become of UN/CEFACT TBG1 and of the specific CI catalogue project group.

The following orange boxes and orange lines are currently specific additions for the ophthalmic optics industry

## B. The subset used for the Frame catalogue

Ophthalmic optics uses a subset of the global CI Catalogue message assembly and the Frame catalogue uses a subset of the message assembly for ophthalmic optics. The diagram below presents the subset used by the Frame catalogue (see in green).

